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To

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The Editor,

Sir,

I request that the following message may kindly be published in your esteemed daily:

TNAU Concludes 89th Annual Indian Society of Soil Science Convention

The Valedictory programme of 89th Annual Convention of the Indian Society of Soil Science (ISSS) at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore marking a significant gathering of eminent soil scientists, researchers, academicians, and policy makers across the country. The event was jointly organized by the Coimbatore Chapter of Indian Society of Soil Science, Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore and the Indian Society of Soil Science, New Delhi.

Dr. Ranjan Bhattacharyya, Secretary, ISSS, New Delhi, welcomed the gathering and presented concise report on the technical sessions. Dr.V.Murugappan, Former Director (Soil and Crop Management Studies), TNAU, Coimbatore in his Felicitation address pointed out that the Annual Convention of ISSS serves as an important platform for exchanging knowledge and fostering collaborations among Soil Scientists and stakeholders to ensure sustainable management of precious soil resources. Dr.P.Balasubramaniam, Director (DNRM), TNAU, Coimbatore in his special address mentioned about the existence of all life in this planet and narrated that “everything comes from Soil and goes back to Soil”.

Dr.B.K. Krishnaraj Vanavarayar, Educationalist, Coimbatore emphasized on Gandhian thoughts, Cap on Consumption (COC) formula - contribute more and consume less and congratulated the organizers of this event. Dr. M.Raveendran, Director of Research, TNAU, Coimbatore delivered Plenary address and emphasized the growing national focus on sustainable soil management and climate resilience. He noted that the Government of India and the Government of Tamil Nadu have made remarkable progress in promoting soil health. He narrated the emerging role of sensors for nutrient optimization, hand held devices for nutrient diagnostics, and portable instruments capable of quantifying soil microbial activity through oxygen-induced colorimetric changes. He elaborated on the integration of AI tools, drone imaging, and satellite-

based systems for real-time monitoring of soil parameters. Stressing the importance of improving nutrient use efficiency, he highlighted next-generation inputs such as third-generation fertilizers, water-soluble fertilizers, nano-fertilizers, and biofertilizers.

He drew attention to the increasing linkages between soil microbiome changes and human health disorders, stressing the need for a multidisciplinary approach to “save the soil and secure the future.” He further highlighted national missions such as the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF), and initiatives for reducing methane emissions through carbon credit-linked programmes. He reiterated the five guiding principles of sustainable soil management: reduction of chemical inputs, rapid enhancement of soil organic carbon, improved water use efficiency, groundwater recharge, and soil conservation. He concluded by stressing the need to strengthen R&D pipelines to upscale these technologies for wider adoption.

Dr.Mrs.D.Selvi, President, ISSS-Coimbatore Chapter cum Organizing Secretary & Professor & Head, Dept. of SS&AC, TNAU, Coimbatore, presided over the session and facilitated the conferment of awards, acknowledging the contributions by scientists and scholars in the field of soil science. Delivering a special address, Dr. A.K. Patra, Vice Chancellor, BCKV, West Bengal stated that the convention marked a significant milestone in the history of ISSS. Dr. Patra highlighted the three pressing global challenges-land degradation, biodiversity loss, and climate change and stated that agriculture, being the most vulnerable component of the food system, requires immediate scientific intervention. He reiterated that living systems depend on organic matter, and that today’s intensive agricultural systems, must be realigned toward long-term sustainability. Reflecting on the three-day convention, he remarked that the deliberations at TNAU offered deep insights into conserving soil, enhancing productivity, and promoting sustainable agricultural systems. He commended the discipline, hospitality, and organizational excellence of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

The session concluded with a formal Vote of Thanks delivered by Dr.Manoj Shrivastava, Joint Secretary, ISSS, New Delhi acknowledging the contributions of all dignitaries, organizers, participants, and supporting institutions. The deliberations of the session highlighted the collective commitment of the Soil Science community to promoting sustainable soil management, accelerating innovation, and fostering strong collaborations among researchers, policymakers, and farmers. The convention continues to serve as a major platform for knowledge exchange and capacity building, benefitting scientists, students, and stakeholders engaged in safeguarding India’s precious soil resources.

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